

ABSTRACT

The Chair That Wouldn't Fall Over

Presenter:

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Normally as mount makers we tend to discuss object safety, security from vibration, earthquake activity, theft and handling. I propose to present one case study where the mounting practice has been used for theatrical purpose. In 2017 the MFA-Boston in collaboration with the Kimbell Art Museum put together "Casanova"; an extensive exhibition containing works on paper, paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, furniture and textile costumes. It was decided to present three vignettes or tableaus that recreated various scenes in different cities throughout Casanova's life.

For the "London" scene a card game gone wrong is depicted. In this scene two fully dressed mannequins are in the process of having a scuffle over cheating while a third female costumed mannequin watches in surprise. As one accuser stands up he "knocks over" the chair he was sitting in. This chair is where the mount is applied. A support armature was fabricated to hold the chair in a position to look as if it is in the process of falling over. The mount itself was not technically difficult as the floor was essentially holding the weight of the chair. It is, however, interesting to discuss mounts from a non-traditional standpoint being used for dramatic purpose.



BIO



Brett Angell, Senior Exhibitions Preparator for Objects at the MFA-Boston has previously worked at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art in Wisconsin. He is also a practicing artist whose artwork is represented locally by Gallery Kayafas and is in the collections of the Chazen Museum of Art, Springfield Art Museum and the Sioux City Art Center.

Brett learned metal work and mount making while on the job at the MFA. A position was created as an assistant mount maker and after a few years Brett moved into the lead mount maker role for small objects.

The MFA travels many exhibitions throughout the world and Brett often travels both as a courier and as an installer. He has traveled extensively in the US as well as the Netherlands, Paris, and Japan. Brett has been to Japan approximately 23 times now for various traveling exhibitions.